

# OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

AN UPDATE ON LOCAL POVERTY RESPONSE inasmuch as it is being explored by an ad hoc group of which several Boulevardians are a part. Richmond residents and congregants are focusing on two possibilities: Circles USA and Bridges Out of Poverty. They are not exactly “programs”. They are methodologies that have been picked up and applied elsewhere in United States. What they have in common is a relationship-based approach to resourcing people who are (1) not in crisis but far from thriving and (2) self-identify as candidates for a process that offers a pathway out of poverty.

We have gathered at the synagogue downtown, Congregation Beth Ahaba, and more recently at St. Peter’s Episcopal for proximity’s sake. Richmond’s east end will likely be the primary setting for whatever we develop. On July 14, representatives from both Circles USA and Bridges Out of Poverty will be on the receiving end of our questions with regard to how their guiding principles and practices are or are not a good fit for Richmond. If you would like to know more, speak with Rachel.

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



Jesus says that it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. Maybe the reason is not that the rich are so wicked they're kept out of the place but that they're so out of touch with reality they can't see it's a place worth getting into.

- Frederick Buechner

June 26, 2016

On the Front: Camel Through Eye of a Needle banner, liturgical art by Patia Rarick.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

# An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal  
(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

\* Please stand, as able.

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

\*Benediction

## Gathering

Introit *How Much More*

### Call to Worship

Happy are those who find wisdom  
**and those who gain understanding**  
Her profit is better than silver,  
**and her gain better than gold.** - Proverbs 3:13-14

### Greeting

\*Hymn *Blest Are They 1-4* 2155 TFWS

Prayers of the People  
Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

## Proclamation and Response

Psalter Psalm 15 UMH 747

### Time with Children

\*Gospel Reading Matthew 19:16-26

\*Hymn *Seek Ye First* UMH 405

Sermon "Fraudulent Christianity" Rev. Rachel G. May

### \*Affirmation of Faith

### Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Jesus Saw Them Fishing*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

### 1. God, whose giving knows no ending,

From Your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by You, we turn to You,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

### 2. Skills and time are ours for pressing

Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone;  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at Your throne.

### 3. Treasure too You have entrusted,

Gain through powers Your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands, in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving You by loving all.

# NURTURE

*caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples*

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Jim Rickards, Alex and Melva Slonin, Aunt Virginia, the perpetrators and victims of gun violence, Jim Green and family, the Virginia Annual Conference and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of United Methodist Church. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
June 1 - 18	\$5,925	\$7,830

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for today, offered by Steve Garnaas-Holmes:

We believe in God, who creates us,  
who sustains us each moment,  
who is our life and our breath.

We follow Christ, who showed us God.  
He received and shared God's grace.  
He trusted God in everything.  
He let go of things so that he might cling to Life.  
He let go of life, so that he might hold onto Love.  
He gave of himself, even his very life,  
for the sake of the healing of the world.  
And though he was crucified,  
God have him life again;  
and he rose and is still among us in a new way.

We live by the Holy Spirit, which alone gives us life.  
We rejoice in the church, the Body of Christ,  
and in the oneness of all life,  
the gift of forgiveness,  
the reality of resurrection,  
and the mystery of eternal life.

By the power of that Holy Spirit, and in the name of Christ,  
we devote ourselves to give generously of all that we receive,  
for the sake of the healing of the world,  
and the eternal glory of God. Amen.



## Crossing Boulevard

*with Intern Minoka*

**<sup>6</sup> WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER** - Matthew 19

The last few months have been hard—spiritually and emotionally.

Moving from being dependent on my mother to losing her required a recalibration of what I knew to be reality.

In this week's passage Jesus reminds us that the forces of human brokenness do not easily destroy the things established by God. I find this piece of Matthew's gospel a timely reminder of the forever-connection we have with people that we love.

My mother and I may not be physically here on earth together anymore, but I believe that because we are joined together in family; both nuclear and God's family, the pain of death that falls to us all cannot separate the love and spirit of those that we hold dear.

I also believe that God has joined together much more than just my mother and me.

We are joined together by God when we make a decision to be the Church. We are joined together by God when we seek marriage, or relationships, or even our daily interactions.

When we choose to love those whom "man" chooses to separate (v.6), or when we reach beyond barriers to risk being joined together with our enemies, we are acknowledging our commonality as God's beloved. This invites the Holy Spirit in to work reconciliation among us.

As we move into election season (or really any season), it helps to remember that God's intention is togetherness, not separation. Let not the work of man (i.e. greed, jealous, fear, hatred) keep us from learning and being in relationship with our brothers and sisters—from honoring what God has joined together.